

become such common practice that it now requires a supermajority in the Senate to pass virtually every piece of legislation, no matter how mundane. The filibuster has begun to erode the integrity of our democratic process.

My colleague, Senator TOM HARKIN from Iowa, who has been a leader on this issue since 1995, recently announced he will introduce legislation to change the filibuster rule, and I am offering a resolution urging the Senate to do the same.

The filibuster was not intended by the framers of the Constitution, and it is certainly not good for the country when we try to solve the difficult problems that face us today. The time has come for the Senate to change its rules.

CONGRATULATING THE CUBAN-AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the Cuban-American Bar Association for its success and contributions to our south Florida community.

For nearly 40 years, the Cuban-American Bar Association has served the public interest by increasing awareness of the study of jurisprudence, fostering respect for the law, and increasing diversity in the judiciary and the legal community.

Given the tragic example of Castro's lawless regime, the members of the Cuban-American Bar Association are keenly aware of the importance of the rule of law and have dedicated their professional careers to its implementation and preservation.

This Saturday, the Cuban-American Bar Association will celebrate its installation of a new executive board. Incoming President Manuel Garcia-Linares and president-elect for 2011 Victoria Mendez will build upon the example of leadership left by outgoing President Roland Sanchez-Medina, Jr. Their dedication and professionalism are not only testaments to their characters but also to the Cuban-American community and to Hispanics in general.

I would also like to congratulate the incoming 2010 Board of Directors:

Nelson Bellido, Raul Chacon, Vivian De Las Cuevas-Diaz, Isabel Diaz, Sandra M. Ferrera, Monica Gordo, Anna Marie Hernandez, Javier Lopez, Ricardo M. Martinez-Cid, Nicole Mestre, Jennifer Perez, and Monica Segura.

CREDIT CARD COMPANIES SHOULD SUSPEND FEES ON CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, as the world watches the crisis, the tragedy in Haiti, many people are coming forth

with charitable contributions to help different organizations that are sponsoring efforts, and it is commendable and wonderful. But what was discovered is that the credit card companies are charging their customary 3 percent fee on those credit card contributions. That is wrong. And the credit card companies, I believe, saw it was wrong, and they put that off for 60 days on contributions given to certain groups.

What I am looking into introducing is legislation, and-or through a letter of request to the administration, suspending credit card fees, except those for processing, on contributions to 501(c)(3) charities.

When people make contributions to charities, and contributions are down now because of the recession, the full amount should be going to that 501(c)(3). Complete charitable contributions should be permitted, and the credit card companies should work with us, at least if it is a disaster like Katrina, like what we have experienced in Haiti or with the tsunamis or with tornados in our Nation.

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS' HISTORIC SEASON

(Mr. CAO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CAO. Madam Speaker, the New Orleans Saints' historic season continued this past Saturday with a 45-14 playoff victory. Next week, they will compete for the NFC championship title, and they will win.

Their success has benefited our city and inspired our district, so I have provided my constituents with a chance to honor them.

Today's statement is from Tripp Roy of New Orleans, Louisiana. Tripp writes:

"The Saints' positive impact on our city is immeasurable. They have done more for New Orleans than any other professional sports franchise has done for any other American city.

"Aside from the short-term joy the team's success has brought to New Orleans, the Saints' record has put the city back on the map, displaying to the Nation that we are back for the long term.

"The endless media coverage, non-stop showcasing of the region's unique culture, and undeniable camaraderie created among the New Orleans 'Who Dat' nation are all the results of the Saints' incredible season.

"This is just the rallying cry the city needed. New Orleans is better than ever, thanks in large part to the Saints."

HAITIAN ORPHANS

(Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am overwhelmed as I have seen the outpouring of support for the

Haitian people and also the concern of this Congress. I would ask that we move forward on one particular interest and concern, and that is the orphans of Haiti.

Already before the earthquake there were 1.5 million orphans. Now, we have seen hundreds of thousands of children who are now without parents.

Over the weekend, I was able to secure and be able to send two plane loads of doctors and nurses and supplies. Thank you, Texas. In that they were operating on a number of individuals, particularly children, 150 surgeries, 600 patients, it is important that we are able to airlift the most badly injured of children and others, particularly children, out of Haiti.

I will be introducing legislation and working with the administration to establish refugee status so these children can be airlifted in an organized manner to have surgery; otherwise, they will die. It is important for us to join together, both sides of the aisle, to find constructive ways to expedite caring for those who are now dying. Our children are our priority. As Chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus, that will be my focus, to save the children of Haiti.

WAR WITH AL QAEDA

(Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, there are a lot of issues that are before this Congress, very, very serious issues. But on Christmas Day, we were reminded of one that we do not always think about, and that is the fact that we are still the subject of those who would use terror to take away our liberty.

I would hope that, as the President has found it appropriate to use the word "war" and talk about the war with al Qaeda, that we would understand that it is more than words, it is actions; that we need to treat those who would attempt to kill us in this way as what they are, unlawful enemy combatants, not common criminals. We should not turn them over to our criminal justice system. We should allow them to be interrogated by the military.

Madam Speaker, those who say that they are attacking us because of Guantanamo do not understand history, both long-term and short-term. They are not attacking us because of Guantanamo. They are attacking us because of the Statue of Liberty.

CONGRATULATING OAK GROVE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Oak Grove Presbyterian Church of Bloomington, Minnesota, for receiving the